

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 2 with the following paragraph:

D² --PCT publication number WO98/18930 published May 7, 1998, entitled "Streptococcus pneumoniae antigens and vaccines" describes certain polypeptides which are claimed to be antigenic. However, no biological activity of these polypeptides is reported.--

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 35 with the following paragraph:

D³ --The DNA probes of this invention may also be used for detecting circulating streptococcus, i.e., *S. pneumoniae* nucleic acids in a sample, for example using a polymerase chain reaction, as a method of diagnosing streptococcus infections. The probe may be synthesized using conventional techniques and may be immobilized on a solid phase, or may be labeled with a detectable label. A preferred DNA probe for this application is an oligomer having a sequence complementary to at least 6 contiguous nucleotides of the *Streptococcus pneumoniae* of the invention.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓ Please cancel claim 17 in its entirety and without prejudice.

Please amend claims 16, 18-20 and 25 as follows.

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D⁴ Claim 16 (Amended). An isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity with a second polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, 55 to 75, 77 to 79, 81 or 83.